

Completion of projects with Iran

†*108 SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of gas (LNG) for which India has made a deal to procure from Iran and the duration for which the deal will be valid;

(b) the price at which gas is being bought by India and at what rate China is buying gas from Iran;

(c) by when the work of laying a pipeline from Iran to India *via* Pakistan is expected to begin and how long its completion will take; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for expediting execution of gas-pipeline laying work?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) A Sale Purchase Agreement (SPA) for the purchase of 5 million tonnes per annum (MMTRA) of LNG was signed between GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL)/Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)/Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and National Iranian Gas Export Company Limited (NIGEC) on 13th June 2005 in Tehran. The contract period is 25 years, beginning the last quarter of 2009. The SPA has a provision for supply of additional 2.5 MMTPA LNG from 2011.

(b) The price of LNG has been negotiated on commercial considerations. It is linked to brent crude prices with an appropriate floor and ceiling. India does not have any information with regard to purchase of gas by China from Iran.

(c) and (d) The 4th Tripartite Joint Working Group meeting of Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project between the three countries was held in Tehran, (ran on January 24-25,2007. During the meeting, discussions were held on the report submitted by International consultant M/s Gaffney Cline and Associates on the gas price at Iran-Pakistan border. A gas pricing formula regarding pricing of gas at Iran-Pakistan border was agreed between Iran and Pakistan side, subject to approval from the

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respective Governments. The Indian side agreed to respond to the pricing formula within a period of four weeks.

Subsequently, an Indian delegation participated in the 4th bilateral Working Group meeting with Pakistan on February 22-23, 2007 to discuss various issues relating to transit of IPI Pipeline through Pakistan. Iran attended the meeting as an Observer. The issues pertaining to transportation tariff and transit fee for passage of gas through Pakistan were, *inter alia*, discussed.

Negotiations are continuing on project structure, pricing, transportation tariff, transit fee, security, pipeline route, contractual obligations, etc. of the IPI project and efforts are being made to finalize these issues.

Increase in irrigation facilities in Vidarbha region

†*109. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the arrangement of funds has been made to increase the irrigation facilities in the Vidarbha region to start schemes from different sources;

(b) if so, the total extent of amount arranged; and

(c) the names of those schemes, out of these schemes which will be completed within three years?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (c) 8 major, 9 medium, 65 minor and 492 local sector irrigation schemes have been identified by the Government of Maharashtra for inclusion to the Vidarbha Package. The Central Government has to provide assistance through AIBP in case of major and medium irrigation projects as per the guidelines. The minor and local sector irrigation schemes are to be provided loan assistance under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The support under AIBP has been estimated to be of the order of Rs. 974.84 crores. All the schemes are planned for completion within a period of 3 years.

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